the modernisation and management of Shipyards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Cochin Shipyard Limited and Hindustan Shipyard Limited have signed an Agreement and a MOU, respectively, with Samsung Heavy Industries, South Korea. The MOU with Hindustan Shipyard Limited relates to collaboration on Offshore platform construction, Industrial Fabrication and Process Plants. The Agreement with Cochin Shipyard Limited relates to Design consultancy, Production consultancy, Material Package for new vessels to be jointly built and Financing Package.

(c) and (d) Government would be willing to involve Indian Private Companies in the modernisation of the Shipyards provided there is a worthwhile and acceptable offer.

Road accidents in Delhi

373. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during last year deaths due to road accidents were more in Delhi than those in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta put together;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for such rising trend of road accidents in Delhi;

(d) whether Government are preparing any master plan to improve the public transport system as a remedial measure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of deaths due to road accidents in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay during 1992 were as under :—

S. No.	Name of the City	No. of Persons killed in 1992
1.	Delhi	1844
2.	Madras	500(P)*
3.	Bombay	406
4.	Calcutta	460(P)*

*Provisional

(c) Some of the reasons which could be attributed to the rising trend of road accidents in Delhi are :—

(i) Growing population and relatively faster growth of motor vehicles in Delhi in the last decade.

(ii) Greater complexity/Heterogeneity of vehicular traffic in Delhi.

(iii) Inadequate mass transportation system.

(iv) Poor road conditions, inadequate street lighting etc.

(v) Lack of road signs and markings etc.

(vi) Cattle menace.

(vii) Blatant disregard of traffic rules and regulations by motorists.

(viii) Rash and negligent driving, overspeeding, mechanical fault etc.

(d) and (e) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is taking the following two measures :—

(i) *Short term measures* :—Government have decided to issue permits to the private bus operators to increase the bus operation in Delhi.

(ii) *Long term measures* :—To meet the commuters demand in the year 2001 and beyond there is a proposal to establish an Integrated Multi Modal Mass Rapid Transit System for Delhi.

Surchage imposed on Shippers

374. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports through Calcutta Port have been badly affected by the container congestion surcharge levied by Shipping lines on shippers;

(b) if so, the reasons of imposing surcharge;

(c) whether such a step is affecting adversely our exports; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve exports through various Ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir. The container traffic at Calcutta Dock System has increased by about 27% during 1992-93 as compared to 1991-92.

(b) During December, 1992, due to overall disturbances in the country, imposition of curfew in dock area, bunching of ships and inability of the transporters to supply trucks, average working time of container vessels in Calcutta Dock System had increased. Due to delayed turnround of ships and accumulation of laden and empty containers, some of the Shipping companies decided to impose congestion surcharge.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Road accidents in the Country

375. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN :

SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has highest number of road mishaps; if so, the details of state-wise figures during the last three years indicating deaths and injuries on the roads under control of Central Government;

(b) whether Government propose to bring about stricter-licencing and licence renewal systems on uniform basis; and

(c) what are the plans of the Government to eliminate accident spots on National Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir. However, the details of State-wise figures of road accidents, persons killed and injured on the National Highways, which are directly under the control of Central Government, during 1989—91 is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLXVII, Annexure No. 8].

(b) The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the rules framed thereunder provide for *strict tests for issue of licenses*. The State Governments have been requested, from time to time, to urge upon the RTOs/ Licensing authorities the need for strict test for issue of driving licences.

(c) Necessary geometrical improvement as well as widening of National Highways to eliminate the accident spots on National Highways are being taken.

Sinking of Indian Freighter Vishwa Mohini

376. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :